(b) In view of high cost of operation of air service in this sector, the same is commercially not viable and a decision on subsidy may be necessary.

Phasing out the production of fuel inefficient vehicles

2105. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps if any, are being taken to phase out the production of fuel inefficient cars|buses|trucks in the country; and

(b) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan|policy in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have been encouraging manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles by grant of fiscal incentives, permitting foreign collaborations for upgradation of technology for making vehicles more fuel efficient and prescribing fuel efficiency norms.

Manufacturing of petrol and diesel from coal and lignite

2106. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of shortage of oil in the country, any studies have been made or are contemplated to determine the technical feasibility and economic viability of manufacturing petrol and diesel from coal and lignite, which are available in abundance in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Various studies were made in the past in regard to the feasibility of production of petrol, diesel etc. from Indian coals but apart from the need for heavy capital investment, the projects were not found economical with reference to the oil prices then prevailing in the international market.

A research project for liquifaction of coal to oil by direct hydrogenation to maximise yield of middle distillates has been taken up by the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad to be completed during the Eighth Plan period. Neyveli Lignite Corporation also proposes to make a study of hydro-liquifaction of lignite even though no proven process with lignite is now in operation.

Commissioning of 400 KV lines by N.H.P.C.

2107. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has undertaken the commissioning of some 400 K.V. lines;

(b) if so, how many of these lines have been completed so far; and

(c) what is the number and details of the lines which have been charged so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following three lines have been completed so far by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation:—

(i) 400 KV Single Circuit Singrauli-Kanpur Transmission Line (on behalf of NTPC) — 505 Kms.

(ii) 400 KV Single Circuit Jeypore-Indravati-Rengali Transmission Line— 423 Kms.

(iii) 400 KV Double Circuit Malda-Farakka Transmission Line — 42 Kms.

(c) All the above three lines have been charged.